

planted as I was assured without Chinese help. But Chinese were there too, both planting and acting as carriers. Altogether I agree with Mr. Swettenham's remark that Rambau has the largest Malay population of any of the Nēgri Sēmbilau; and I should not describe it as unprogressive, for in an agriculture point of view it shows signs of progress, both of a more promising character, and more independent of extraneous influences, than can be found in most of the other Malay States near our Settlements.

"The second night was passed at Mēsjid Nērāsa, where the Datu of Rambau lives, near Bandar. From there, after twice crossing the river (which is here a fine fresh rapid stream, excellent for bathing, with a sandy bottom, and said to be above the reach of aligators) we had a long walk to Briso near the Malacca frontier; and eventually reached Alor Gajah in time for an afternoon meal, and so on to Malacca in the evening of the third day. It was on the whole a very pleasant and interesting journey, which I can safely recommend to others as a sufficiently easy *overland* route of 3 days from Sungei Ujong to Malacca, and a pleasant variation of the somewhat monotonous two days' journey by way of Linsom and the River Linggi."

"Some discussion ensued as to the customs of Rambau, from which it appeared that the tribal forms of Society and Government still flourish there, while in the neighbouring States they have been greatly modified; the causes suggested being the comparative isolation of Rambau, the absence of Chinese, and its unique geographical situation, placed as it is neither at the mouth nor at the source of any important stream."

THE MINERALS OF SARAWAK.

By A. Hart Everett, (late) Sarawak Government Service.

(See Journal I. 1878.)

The paper on the distribution of the Minerals of Sarawak, which appeared in the first issue of this Journal, had left my hands several years past, and as I was not aware of its intended publication, it is now scarcely up to date in some few particulars. By the courtesy of the Editor I am enabled to supply these deficiencies by the present note.

Manganese.—Lundu and Rejang must be added to the localities already given for this Mineral. In the first named

district it occurs as an oxide in the usual boss-like aggregations.

Copper.—Some insignificant traces of Copper have been reported to exist in the rocks forming the left hand entrance of the Salak river in Santubong Bay.

Lead.—Galena is now known to exist in Sarawak but only in minute traces. It has been lately discovered in Southern Borneo also and is there associated with Arsenic.

Antimony.—Since the date of my last note an attempt has been made to follow up the numerous indications of antimony in the Rejang to their common source, but hitherto without much success. A small quantity of ore, however, has been exported from the district, and it is at least probable that when the exploration has been pushed further in the direction of the elevated country near the Tabujang Mountain there will be a better result to record. The Sesang branch of the Kalakah river has yielded traces of Antimony in addition to the localities previously mentioned. In the section on Antimony the paragraph "Lodes in which the matrix is felspar are rarer" and should read "are richer."

Coal.—My remarks on this Mineral referred to the Silantek (Lingga) coal and not to the Sadong coal at present being worked by the Government. This latter is of inferior quality.

Petroleum.—Mineral oil may now be included in the Sarawak list. Indications of its presence have been discovered in Sadong; but they are, I believe, of no importance from an economical point of view.

Tungsten.—A lode of a dark looking Mineral, which appears to pierce the limestone hill of Busau from side to side, has been pronounced to consist largely of Wolfram or tungstate of iron and Manganese.

Limestone, Clays, &c.—Inexhaustible supplies of limestone are available in Sarawak. It can be quarried on the river side within 25 miles of Kuching and it affords both ordinary and hydraulic lime, each excellent of its kind. Plastic Clays of the finest quality abound in various parts of the Territory and are at present utilized solely for the manufacture of bricks and coarse pottery. The country is not rich in ornamental stones available for building or other useful purposes. The only rocks of this description with which I am acquainted are a pure white saccharoid marble (metamorphic limestone) in

the Upper Samarahan and a handsome dark blackish-green rock with white or pale green marblings which is found in the distant Upper Rejang country, whence small specimens are brought by the Kayans, who make this stone into ornaments. It is probably a variety of Serpentine.

In concluding this brief note I should mention that Silver was inadvertently omitted in my list of the minerals which do not come within the monopoly of the Borneo Company.

A. H. E.

Sarawak, 23rd November, 1878.

THE SEMANGS.

[The following letters, written by a distinguished authority on the subject of which they treat, have been kindly placed at the Society's disposal. Though written some years ago they will still, it is believed, be found interesting.]

OXFORD UNIVERSITY MUSEUM,

May 4, 1869.

Professor———writes to thank Colonel——— for the trouble he has taken on behalf of the interests of the Museum here in having the two aborigines photographed, and in desiring the Raja of Kēdah to procure a skeleton of one of these people. The two photographs enclosed are taken from the new Museum here, an institution comparatively recently superadded to the old classical university.

Some 8 or 9 papers have recently been written upon the history and physical peculiarities of the Sēmangs, and the Andamaners, who are supposed to be of the same stock. Colonel Fytche, Colonel Campbell in his notes by an old Sportsman, Mr. Earl, Lieutenant St. John, 60th Royal Rifles, and a Pere Bourieu have all written about either the Sēmang in P. Wellesley or the Andaman Islanders, and all agree that the continental dwarf black and the Islander are much the same. Mr. Wallace, who spent many years in the Archipelago to the southward at Timor, Ternate, Gilolo &c., and has just brought out a book, a very good one, in which he discusses all the Natural History points, relating both to man and beast, agrees with these gentlemen in thinking the Sēmangs of the Malacca Peninsula